In the Claims:

- **Please cancel Claims 1 - 9, 11 and 26 without prejudice.**

Applicant does not hereby waive or limit the right to prosecute such cancelled claims at a later date in this application, any application claiming priority from or through this application, or in any reissue, reexamination, or similar application which may be filed in the future.

- **Please amend Claims 10 and 12 - 25 as follows:**

10. (Once Amended) The method [as in] of Claim [6] 27, wherein a hybridization probe for step b) is selected from the group consisting of: [SEQ ID-No.:] SEQ ID NO: 5, [SEQ ID-No.:] SEQ ID NO: 6, [SEQ ID-No.:] SEQ ID NO: 7 and [SEQ ID-No.] SEQ ID NO: 8.

a1

12. (Once Amended) The method [as in] of Claim [8] 29, wherein after hybridization, at least one washing step is performed at a temperature which is approximately 1°C less than the melting temperature (Tm) of the particular hybridization probe used.

a2

13. (Once Amended) The method [as in] of Claim [9] 30, wherein after hybridization, at least one washing step is performed at a temperature which is approximately 1°C less than the melting temperature (Tm) of the particular hybridization probe used.

14. (Once Amended) The method [as in] of Claim 10, wherein after hybridization, at least one washing step is performed at a temperature which is approximately 1°C less than the melting temperature (Tm) of the particular hybridization probe used.

15. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 1 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

A2 Cont.

16. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 2 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

17. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 3 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

18. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 4 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

19. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 5 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

20. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 6 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

21. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 7 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

22. (Once Amended) The nucleotide sequence SEQ ID [no.] NO: 8 from the [enclosed] Sequence Listing.

A2 Cont.

23. (Once Amended) Use of the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID [no.] NO: 1 and SEQ ID [no.] NO: 2 as primers, and nucleotide sequences SEQ ID [no.] NO: 5 and/or SEQ ID [no.] NO: 6 as hybridization probes, in a method [as in Claim 4] for detecting azole derivative-resistant fungal cells.

24. (Once Amended) Use of the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID [nos.] NO: 3 and SEQ ID [no.] NO: 4 as primers, and nucleotide sequences SEQ ID [no.] NO: 7 and/or SEQ ID [no.] NO: 8 as hybridization probes, in a method [as in Claim 4] for detecting azole derivative-resistant fungal cells.

25. (Once Amended) A kit for the analysis of fungal infections with azole derivative-resistant fungal strains, containing at least one nucleotide sequence[s] selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID [-No.] NO: 1, SEQ ID [-No.] NO: 5, SEQ ID [-No.] NO: 6, SEQ ID [-No.] NO: 7[,] and SEQ ID [-No.] NO: 8.

- **Please add new claims 27 - 30 as follows:**

27. (NEW) A method for detecting resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein the hybridization probes are directed against a DNA segment from the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene,

wherein between steps a) and b) a PCR reaction is performed in which segments of the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene are amplified, and

wherein a primer for the PCR reaction is selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4.

28. (NEW) A method for detecting resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a3 Cont.

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein the hybridization probes are directed against a DNA segment from the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene (ERG16 gene) of the species Candida albicans,,

wherein between steps a) and b) a PCR reaction is performed in which segments of the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene are amplified, and

wherein a primer for the PCR reaction is selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4.

29. (NEW) A method for detecting resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

A3 Cont.

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

wherein the hybridization probes for step b) is selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8.

30. (NEW) A method for detecting resistant fungal cells in clinical material, comprising the steps of:

a) extraction of fungus-specific nucleic acids from clinical material; and

b) hybridization of the fungus-specific nucleic acids with hybridization probes which are directed against nucleic acid segments of azole derivative-resistant fungal cells,

wherein detection of the hybridized probes detects azole derivative-resistant cells,

a3 Cont'd.

wherein the hybridization probes are directed against a DNA segment from the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene,

wherein between steps a) and b) a PCR reaction is performed in which segments of the 14-α-lanosterol demethylase gene are amplified, and

wherein a hybridization probe for step b) is selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8.